

The special meeting of the Board of Education of the City of Vineland was held Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 5:08 p.m. in the Landis Administration Building Auditorium, 61 W. Landis Avenue, Vineland, New Jersey, pursuant to notice with Mr. Bordley presiding and the following members present: Ms. Acosta, Mr. Fiocchi, Mr. Holmes, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Sbrana (by phone), Ms. Spinelli and Mr. Ulrich. Absent: Mr. Medio.

Mr. Medio arrived at 5:23 p.m.

Also present: Dr. Gruccio, Superintendent, Mr. Frey and Mr. Frangipani, Assistant Superintendents, Mrs. Haley, Board Secretary, Dr. Rossi, Executive Director of Personnel and Mr. DeSanto, Board Solicitor. Absent: None.

Mr. Bordley announced that in compliance with the New Jersey meeting law commonly referred to as "The Sunshine Law," the Vineland Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be sent to the following, announcing time and place thereof, agenda, etc.: The Daily Journal, SNJ Today, the Press of Atlantic City, Nuestra Comunidad, Visto Bueno, the Clerk - City of Vineland, and Administrative Office Public Bulletin Board.

Flag Salute:

Public Comments

On Agenda Item: None.

Dr. Gruccio said Mr. Sbrana is away and is on speaker phone. She said it is very difficult on a cell phone to hear all of our comments. Dr. Gruccio said Mr. Sbrana will be watching the meeting via YouTube and when it is time to vote he will vote. She said we will need a 10 to 15 second delay in order for him to hear what we are saying and asked everyone to please be patient.

Dr. Gruccio said today we received a letter from the Acting Commissioner that we were very pleased with. She said the 2 million dollars has been reinstated back to us as aid for the 2017-2018 budget rather than a loan, which is excellent news. Dr. Gruccio said we have already utilized that money for the 2018/19 budget, which now frees up \$205,000 in additional money that we had budgeted for the loan payment. She said we were very happy to receive that news today.

Recommendations:

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

- a. The Board approve the 2018-2019 school district preliminary budget for submission to the State of New Jersey, Department of Education, as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Local Tax Levy</u>
General	\$174,788,759	\$23,753,425
Special Revenue	25,163,544	n/a
Debt Service	-	-
Total	\$199,952,303	\$23,753,425

Mr. Bordley asked Mrs. Haley if she had something prepared that she wanted to share with the public.

Mrs. Haley distributed a spreadsheet to the Board members. She said on March 14th she did a budget presentation, which included a proposed tax increase of 4%. She said that was before we received our state aid numbers. Mrs. Haley said the following day we received state aid and we received an additional \$417,121 that we were very happy about. However it was still less than last year by 1.7 million dollars. Mrs. Haley said we had a Finance Committee meeting on March 16th to review the entire situation. She said the spreadsheet that she distributed is what the Finance Committee formulated on March 16th. Mrs. Haley said we decided to reprioritize some of the budget. She said the extra 2% tax levy would cover the armed guards. Mrs. Haley said we discussed using the \$417,121 plus the balance of maintenance reserve of \$110,000 to come up with \$527,121 to put towards the expansion of the dance studio. She said we keep talking about remaining competitive with the other districts. Mrs. Haley said we lose students to Charter Schools, the Cumberland County Technical Center and other schools that provide dance or performing arts. She said we thought by expanding the dance studio that would help to make us more competitive along with the AMSA Program that we are putting at Johnstone School.

All Members voted "yes" except Mr. Sbrana who "abstained." (7-0-1)

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c. The Board approve the maximum travel amount in accordance with NJAC 6A:23A-7.3 for the 2018-2019 school district budget in the amount of \$35,400. The travel amount spent, to date, in the 2017-2018 school year is \$22,212.51.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

Mr. Medio arrived at the meeting at 5:23 p.m.

d. The Board approve the discussion and adoption of a resolution authorizing the School Business Administrator to submit to the New Jersey Department of Education a request to use \$122,951 of the district's 'Banked Cap' in the 2018-2019 budget.

All Members
 voted "yes."
 (9-0-0)

Mr. Medio asked what a Banked Cap is. Mrs. Haley said every year when we do the budget the software calculates how much we are above for certain adjustment items. She said our largest adjustment item is usually healthcare and when it is above a certain dollar amount it goes into Banked Cap and accumulates for 3 years. She said you have the choice to use that difference to increase your budget above 2%, which we have not done in the past. Mrs. Haley said this is the first year we are using some of the Banked Cap. Mr. Medio asked what the approximate amount of our current Banked Cap is for this year. Mrs. Haley said 3 million dollars.

Proposed item by Board Member (s): None.

Public Comments: Vicky Miller

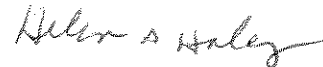
Ms. Miller expressed her concern about the naming of the Lincoln Avenue Middle School after one soldier when there were 18 soldiers in this city that served our country. She also expressed her concern in regards to what she is hearing about deals being made, which is an ethics violation.

Ms. Spinelli thanked her fellow Board members, Mrs. Haley and Dr. Gruccio for being patient with her in regards to all the questions she has had about the budget.

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Jennings, seconded by Mr. Bordley, to adjourn the meeting at 5:29 p.m. All Members voted “yes.”

Respectfully submitted,



Helen G. Haley
Board Secretary